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International Women's Day: Readings Around the Web

March 8, 2010 in [The Five-List Plan](#) by [The China Beat](#) | [Permalink](#)

1. [Shanghaiist](#) has a Women's Day post that includes an interesting Al Jazeera report on Wu Qing, a women's rights activist and district People's Congress representative. The video follows Wu Qing as she teaches at Beijing's Rural Women Training School, instructing village women on their constitutional rights and encouraging them to pursue education and employment opportunities.

2. CNNGo features several International Women's Day stories, such as this one on ["8 of Asia's Top Power Women."](#) China's only representative on the list is Zhang Yin, founder of China's biggest paper-making company and "the world's richest self-made woman." Another article at the site discusses ["The importance, or not, of International Women's Day in China."](#) The CNNGo team wondered how seriously "San Ba Fu Nü Jie" is taken in China:

[Is] International Women's Day the Chinese equivalent of our President's day, a holiday that is mostly meaningful because you get a day off work? Or do the women of China, often seen as equal to men, celebrate it with more significance?

Short interviews with six women in Shanghai follow, representing a range of views toward the holiday. And [in Hong Kong](#), the 100th celebration of International Women's Day contained both lighthearted and serious elements: while some participated in a high-heels race, others came together at a rally calling for equal pay between men and women.

3. The United Nations Development Programme [released a report on gender equality today](#), which "estimated . . . that India and China are 'missing' about 85 million women who died from discriminatory health care and neglect or who were never born at all." The report called for improvements in the economic power, political participation, and legal protection of women in the Asia-Pacific region — which has one of the world's worst gender gaps.

4. Fifteen years have passed since 1995's Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, and the UN is currently reviewing the status of the "Beijing Platform for Action" adopted at that summit. Reports on the the current UN Session of the Commission on the Status of Women can be found at the *People's Daily* website; see [here](#) and [here](#). Meng Xiaosi, head of the Chinese Delegation to the Commission, addressed the assembly last week and had this to say:

Today women account for the majority of the over 1 billion people in poverty; each year 536,000 women and girls die of pregnancy or maternity or within 6 weeks after delivery; the global average of women in parliaments stand at 18.7 percent only; women face vulnerable situation in employment; and gender discriminations in its various forms are still widespread and rampant . . . It is undeniable that male thinking dominates the core power that moves this world. . . .

On trade, financial and budgetary issues, women's voices are extremely weak . . . Around the decision tables on water, air, energies, which affect our lives, and on war and peace, which determine life or death, women are barely represented . . . There are still many obstacles on our way forward, but difficulties only ignite our strength and perseverance, and challenges only firm our wills.

5. ["Voices of the Wives of China's Prisoners of Conscience"](#) are featured at Global Voices Online, which translates excerpts from interviews with the wives of Liu Xiaobo, Hu Jia, Tan Zuoren, and Huang Qi.

Tags: [International Women's Day](#)